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way to the vigorous onslaught of Katkoff. In reality, however, while it is true that Herzen's personal influence began to wane in his declining years, it was due to anything but the philippics of Katkoff. How insignificant was the influence of this "*bedeutender Vertreter des russischen Nationalismus*" (page 116) everywhere save in governmental circles, appears from the fact that his were throughout the reign of Alexander II the only conservative periodicals, whereas a score of widely circulating and popular publications stood open to the disciples of Herzen, until finally the political and economic ideas of the latter gained universal acceptance in the press, — a fact of which ample proof is furnished by Dr. Sperber himself. Thus Herzen's ideas on the relation of the individual to society (pages 39, 40) and on law (pages 66–68), his skepticism with regard to representative government and "the utopia of popular sovereignty in a democracy" (pages 61, 64, 68), his opposition to politics (pages 77, 79), found their echo in the Pissarev school of Nihilism and, through the literary influence of that school, held full sway over the minds of Young Russia until the setback given by the political movement of the *Narodnaya Volya* (*The Will of the People*), 1878–1881. Herzen's views on the Russian village community as the bulwark against the development of capitalism and of a proletariat class (pages 88, 89, 102), have become the corner-stone of "peasantism," and, although refuted by the recent economic development of Russia, are still obstinately adhered to by all economic writers and by the whole press of the country.

While thus the critical part of Dr. Sperber's monograph must be considered a failure, full credit is due to him for the conscientious manner in which the ideas of Herzen are summed up in his compilation. As only a few of Herzen's works are translated into French or German, Dr. Sperber's monograph will serve a useful purpose and prove of considerable help to the foreign student of modern Russia who is acquainted with the works of Leroy-Beaulieu, Alphonse Thun, Plechanov and Stepniak.

I. A. HOURWICH.

L'Agriculture aux États-Unis. Par E. LEVASSEUR. Paris, 1894. — 492 pp.

It is easy to read Professor Levasseur's treatise on American agriculture without giving due credit to its eminent author. The style and method are so clear and simple, and the matter is so much the subject of vague every-day knowledge, that the casual reader may

scarcely notice the patient investigation and rare judgment that mark the book. The author modestly calls the book an *aperçu*, and it is true that it aims rather to give some consideration to every part of the subject than to deal at great length with any one part. The matter, however, is so judiciously chosen that the book leaves an impression of thoroughness as well as breadth of treatment.

The book is mainly descriptive. Beginning with a general consideration of such subjects as the conditions of farm life, the progress of agricultural methods, the rate of farm wages, the farmers' attempts at association, *etc.*, he passes in Chapters III–VI to a statistical treatment of the various products of the United States. The statistics are full without a great multiplication of figures, and are illumined by interesting comparisons. This part of the work, however, necessarily smacks of the catalogue, and will prove the least interesting to the ordinary reader.

Chapter VII is an admirable discussion of the different agricultural regions of the United States. Professor Levasseur makes a classification of his own, dividing the country into nine sections, and describes in turn the conditions peculiar to each section and the characteristics of the population so far as they affect its agriculture. The chief regret in regard to the book is that the author has not carried farther the tendency shown in this chapter to explain as well as describe the conditions of our agriculture. The book abounds in particular explanations and in most valuable reflections on different phases of the subject, but we miss a more general consideration of the social and racial causes that help determine the direction of agricultural production.

The latter half of the book deals with other sides of the question than the productive, and is, with Chapter VII, the most interesting. The methods of distributing the public lands and the effect of our policy in this direction are considered, and an excellent treatment of mortgages is given. While seeming at times almost too much impressed by the black accounts frequently given of the farmers' debts, the author concludes by showing the value of the mortgage as an indispensable instrument of credit, and characterizes it as "*le pont par lequel le colon a passé du prolétariat à la propriété.*" Interesting use is made of the census statistics of mortgage and ownership, but one regrets that part of the space might not have been devoted to their more complete analysis. The last two chapters in the book deal respectively with internal commerce and the export trade. Under the former head are given admirable accounts of the

elevator system, the stock-yards, methods of transportation, *etc.*, and of Chicago and Minneapolis as typical markets, while due credit is given to the speculative machinery of the grain trade for its important directive influence. Under the head of "*Commerce Extérieur*," the subject of competition in the foreign market receives suggestive treatment, and some final conclusions are given as to the future of American agriculture. The author predicts yet a prosperous career for our farmers and an important (though diminished) place in the foreign market, — but only by adaptation to new conditions. More intensive cultivation is declared necessary from now on, though the author is impressed by the amount of new land still available for the old methods of production. "*S'appliquer à produire avec économie en même temps qu'en abondance*," is his practical advice to the farmer, and one that corresponds well to the opinions of the most intelligent farmers themselves. Greater economy not only in production but in consumption is the chief thing needed, while by an extension of truck-farming and of the trade in manufactured food products (flour, canned goods, *etc.*) farming profits will be maintained. M. Levasseur still believes in wheat, however, as the great staple of food exports.

It is most satisfactory to welcome this able discussion of a subject so important to ourselves, and yet so little understood, as the economics of agriculture. The book presents so many sound judgments that we regret that the author did not give even freer rein to the expression of his individual opinion. It is interesting to note that while impressed with the *crise* in American agriculture, he ascribes little importance to the depreciation of silver or to the speculation in food-products as causes of the existing evils. At times the author seems to wander far from the subject of agriculture, but in doing so he gives us too much of interest to admit of complaint.

The sources of his information are extensive, including especially the official reports of the Department of Agriculture, and of the various state departments and commissioners. The treatise constitutes part of Volume 136 of the *Mémoires de la Société Nationale d'Agriculture de France*. It is preceded by a comprehensive "note" on American agriculture by the secretary of the society.

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